



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : HIROYUKI KAWAE ET AL. Confirmation No.: 01-764  
Serial No. : 10/026,871  
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TC/A.U. : 2879  
Examiner : Kevin J. Quarterman  
  
Docket No. : 01-764  
Customer No.: 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the prior art listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed, which prior art was cited in the corresponding European application.

- (1) EP Patent No. 1 045 458;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,066,861;
- (3) UK Patent No. 2 039 517;
- (4) International Publication No WO98/0679; and
- (5) EP Patent No. 1 013 740.

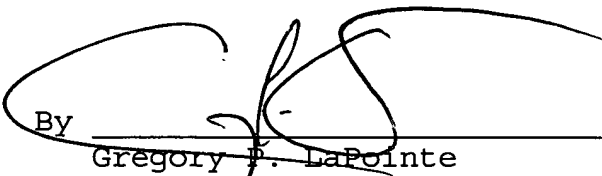
The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in the European search report dated May 10, 2005.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for

independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroyuki Kawae et al.

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Date: June 15, 2005

I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on June 15, 2005.

